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71 Applicant MITSUITOATSU CHEMICALS, INCORPORATED 2-5, 3-chome, Kasumigaseki Chlyoda-ku Tokyo (JP)

Invertor Nagata, Teruyuki 154, Shiraganemachi Omatu-shi Fukuoka-ken (JP)

> Okazaki, koju 35. Yamashitamachi Omatu-shi Fukuoka-ken (JP)

Kajimoto, Nobuyuki 4-1413-1315, Shiomidai 1-chome Isogo-ku Yokohama-shi Kanagawa-ken (JP)

Miura, Tohru 1612-1-26, Kosugayacho Sakae-ku Yokohama-shi Kanagawa-ken (JP)

Kanemura, Yoshinobu 2882, lijimacho Sakae-ku Yokohama-shi Kanagawa-ken (JP)

Sasagawa, Katsuyoshi 1510-1-411, Shinyoshidacho Kohoku-ku Yokohama-shi Kanagawa-ken (JP)

(74) Representative: Stuart, Ian Alexander et al MEWBURN ELLIS & CO. 2/3 Cursitor Street London EC4A 1BQ (GB)

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Description

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RESIN FOR PLASTIC LENS, AND METHOD FOR ITS PREPARATION

The present invention relates to a resin useful in preparing plastic lenses having a high-refractive index, lenses containing the resin, and a method for the preparation of such lenses.

In recent years, plastic lenses are rapidly being more frequently utilized as optical elements in eyeglasses, cameras and the like, because they are lighter, more unbreakable and more dyeable than inorganic lenses.

A resin which can be prepared by the radical polymerization of diethylene glycol bis(allyl carbonate) (hereinafter referred to simply as DAC) has been used to prepare such lenses. This resin has a high impact resistance, is lightweight, and exhibits excellent dyeing properties and good workability of cutting and polishing.

However, lenses prepared from the above-mentioned resin have a lower refractive index ($n_D = 1.50$) than inorganic lenses ($n_D = 1.52$). In order to obtain equivalent optical properties to glass lenses, it is necessary to increase the central thickness, peripheral thickness and curvature of the lens and hence the lens becomes very thick. For this reason, resins having a high-refractive index are desired. Resins which have been previously used to prepare lenses having a high-refractive index include resins prepared by reacting an isocyanate compound with diethylene glycol (U.S. Patent No. 4,443,588), reacting an isocyanate compound with a hydroxyl compound containing a halogen atom such as tetrabromobisphenol A (Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 164615/1983), or reacting an isocyanate compound with a hydroxyl compound containing a diphenyl sulfide skeleton (Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 194401/1985).

The present inventors have previously proposed high-refractive plastic lenses comprising polyurethane resins or the like which can be prepared by reacting an isocyanate compound with a hydroxyl compound having a sulfur atom (U.S. Patent Nos. 4,680,369 and 4,780,552) or reacting an isocyanate compound with a polythiol (U.S. Patent No. 4,689,387 and Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 267316/1987).

Lenses comprising previously known resins have a higher refractive index than the lenses containing DAC, however, the refractive index thereof is still insufficient. Such resins have drawbacks such as high dispersion, poor weatherability and great specific gravity, since the resins are made from compounds containing numerous halogen atoms or aromatic rings to improve the refractive index.

It has been known to add an internal releasing agent during the process for preparing such lenses to improve mold release characteristics. In such process butyl phosphate is added to DAC. However, the addition of butyl phosphate is not required, and results in impaired appearance of the molded articles. [Seiichi Mima, "Polymer Digest", 3, 39 (1984) and the like].

In molding polyurethane and S-alkyl thiocarbamic acid ester lenses, it is difficult to release the lens from the mold after polymerization. In order to solve this problem, the present inventors invented a method in which an external releasing agent is employed (Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 267316/1987) and a method in which a mold made from polyolefin resin is employed (Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication No. 236818/1987).

However, these above mold release methods are still insufficient for improving mold release property in the cast polymerization because of the lens according to the present invention.

In the method in which an external releasing agent is employed, a surface treatment material for treating the inner surface of the mold is partially transferred to the surface and interior of the polymerized lenses, causing the lens sruface to be uneven and turbid. The mold release treatment is required each time the mold is used. Accordingly, this method is intricate, decreases lens productivity, and thus is uneconomical.

Further, a polyolefin resin mold, is deformed at elevated temperatures, resulting in poor accuracy of the lens surfaces. Thus, the method cannot be applied in applications where high surface accuracy is required.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention may achieve one or more of the following: ameliorate the problems and disadvantages of the prior art by providing a resin having improved properties over prior art resins, a process for producing the same, and a lens containing the resin having superior properties over prior art lenses, and a process for producing the lens; provide a resin having excellent optical properties;

provide a colorless and transparent resin having a high refractive index which is suitable for use in lenses; provide a process for producing lenses efficiently and economically on an industrial scale; provide plastic lenses having a high refractive index, high surface accuracy, excellent optical properties,

excellent impact resistance, and which are lightweight and suitable for use in eyeglasses and cameras.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized and attained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations, particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

The invention provides a process for producing a resin comprising reacting (a) one or more aliphatic polyisocyanate compounds having at least one sulfur atom with (b) one or more active hydrogen compounds selected from polyol compounds, polythiol compounds having sulfur atoms only in mercapto groups, and polythiol compounds having at least one sulfur atom in addition to the sulfur atoms contained in the mercapto group(s).

The present invention also provides a process for producing a lens containing the resin of the invention

comprising forming a mixture of (a) one or more aliphatic polyisocyanate compounds having at least one sulfur atom; (b) one or more active hydrogen compounds selected from polyol compounds, polythiol compounds having sulfur atoms only in mercapto groups, and polythiol compounds having at least one sulfur atom in addition to the sulfur atom in the mercapto groups and (c) at least one internal releasing agent; pouring the mixture into a mold and polymerizing the mixture to form said lens.

A resin embodying the invention may have excellent optical properties, be colorless and of high refractive index. The plastic lenses of the invention may have high surface accuracy, excellent weatherability, exhibit excellent impact resistance and optical properties and be manufacturable extremely efficiently on an industrial scale by the use of a usual glass mold without any specific mold release treatment.

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Reference will now be made in detail to the present preferred embodiments of the invention.

Exemplary aliphatic polyisocyanate compounds containing at least one sulfur atom and suitable for use in the processes of the invention include noncyclic aliphatic polyisocyanate compounds containing sulfur atom such as thiodiethyl diisocyanate, thiodipropyl diisocyanate, thiodihexyl diisocyanate, dimethylsulfine diisocyanate, dithiodimethyl diisocyanate, dithiodiethyl diisocyanate and dithiodipropyl diisocyanate; an aliphatic isocyanate containing sulfur atom and an aromatic ring such as bis[(4-isocyanatomethyl)benzene] sulfide; a cyclic aliphatic isocyanate containing sulfur atom such as 1,4-dithian-2,5-diisocyanate; and an aliphatic isocyanate containing sulfur atom and a heterocyclic ring.

Halogen-substituted compounds such as chlorine-substituted and bromine-substituted compounds of these polyisocyanates, biuret reaction products thereof, adduct reaction products of the polyisocyanates and trimethylol-propane, and dimerization and trimerization reaction products of the polyisocyanate compounds are also suitable for use in the process of the invention.

The polyisocyanate compounds may be used alone or in a mixture of two or more thereof.

Exemplary active hydrogen compounds suitable for use in the process of the invention include a polyol compound, a polythiol compound containing sulfur atoms only in mercapto groups, and a polythiol compound containing at least one sulfur atom in addition to the sulfur atom in mercapto groups.

Exemplary suitable polyol compounds include polyols such as ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, butylene glycol, neopentyl glycol, glycerin, trimethylolethane, trimethylolpropane, butanetriol, 1,2-methyl glycoside, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, tripentaerythritol, sorbitol, erythritol, threitol, ribitol, arabinitol, xylitol, allitol, mannitol, dorcitol, iditol, glycol, inositol, hexanetriol, triglycerol, diglycerol, triethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, tris(2-hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate, cyclobutanediol, cyclopentanediol, cyclohexanediol, cyclohexanediol, cyclohexanediol, cyclohexanediol, hydroxypropylcyclohexanol, tricyclo(5,2,1,02.6)decane dimethanol, bicyclo(4,3,0)nonanediol, dicyclohexanediol, tricyclo(5,3,1,1)dodecanediol, bicyclo(4,3,0)nonanedimethanol, tricyclo(5,3,1,1)dodecane diethanol, hydroxypropyltricyclo(5,3,1,1)dodecanol, spiro(3,4)octanediol, butyl cyclohexanediol, 1,1-bicyclohexylidenediol, cyclohexanetriol, maltitol, lactitol, dihydroxynaphthalene, trihydroxynaphthalene, tetrahydroxynaphthalene, dihydroxybenzene, benzenetriol, biphenyltetraol, pyrogallol, (hydroxynaphthyl)pyrogallol, trihydroxyphenanthrene, bisphenol A, bisphenol F, xylylene glycol, di(2-hydroxyethoxy)benzene, bisphenol A-bis-(2-hydroxyethyl ether), tetrabromobisphenol A, tetrabromobisphenol A-bis(2-hydroxy ethyl ether), dibromoneopentyl glycol and epoxy resin; condensation reaction products of these polyols and organic polybasic acids such as oxalic acid, glutamic acid, adipic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, cyclohexanecarboxylic acid, β-oxocyclohexanepropionic acid, dimer acid, phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, salicylic acid, 3-bromopropionic acid, 2-bromoglycolic acid, dicarboxycyclohexane, pyromellitic acid, butanetetracarboxylic acid and bromophthalic acid; addition reaction products of the above-mentioned polyols and alkylene oxides such as ethylene oxide and propylene oxide; and addition reaction products of alkylene polyamines and alkylene oxides such as ethylene oxide and propylene oxide.

Halogen-substituted compounds such as chlorine-substituted and bromine-substituted compounds of these above polyol compounds are also suitable for use in the process of the invention.

Exemplary polythiol compounds having sulfur atoms only in the mercapto groups suitable for use in the processes of the invention include aliphatic polythiols such as methanedithiol, 1,2-ethanedithiol, 1,1-propanedithiol, 1,2-propanedithiol, 1,3-propanedithiol, 2,2-propanedithiol, 1,6-hexanedithiol, 1,2,3-propanetrithiol, 1,1-cyclohexanedithiol, 1,2-cyclohexanedithiol, 2,2-dimethylpropane-1,3-dithiol, 3,4-dimethoxybutane-1,2-dithiol, 2-methylcyclohexane-2,3-dithiol, bicyclo(2,2,1)hepta-exo-cis-2,3-dithiol, 1,1-bis(mercaptomethyl)cyclohexane, thiomalic acid bis(2-mercaptoethyl ester), 2,3-dimercaptosuccinic acid (2-mercaptoethyl ester), 2,3dimercapto-1-propanol(2-mercapto acetate), 2,3-dimercapto-1-propanol(3-mercapto propionate), diethylene glycol bis(2-mercapto acetate), diethylene glycol bis(3-mercapto propionate), 1,2-dimercaptopropyl methyl ether, 2,3-dimercaptopropyl methyl ether, 2,2-bis(mercaptomethyl)-1,3-propanedithiol, bis(2-mercaptoethyl) ether, ethylene glycol bis(2-mercapto acetate), ethylene glycol bis(3-mercapto propionate), trimethylolpropanebis(2-mercapto acetate), trimethylolpropane bis(3-mercapto propionate), pentaerythritoltetrakis(2-mercapto acetate) and pentaerythritoltetrakis (3-mercapto propionate), and halogen-substituted compounds such as chlorine-substituted and bromine-substituted compounds thereof; aromatic polythiols such as 1,2-dimercaptobenzene, 1,3-dimercaptobenzene, 1,4-dimercaptobenzene, 1,2-bis(mercaptomethyl)benzene, 1,3-bis(mercaptomethyl)benzene, 1,4-bis(mercaptomethyl)benzene, 1,2-bis(mercaptoethyl)benzene, 1,3-bis(mercaptoethyl)benzene, 1,4-bis(mercaptoethyl)benzene, 1,2-bis(mercaptomethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,3-bis(mercaptomethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,4-bis(mercaptomethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,2-bis(mercaptoethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,3-bis(mercaptoethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,4-bis(mercaptoethyleneoxy)benzene,

1,2,4-trimercaptobenzene, 1,3,5-trimercaptobenzene, 1,2,3-tris(mercapto-1,2,3-trimercaptobenzene, methyl)benzene, 1,2,4-tris(mercaptomethy)benzene, 1,3,5-tris(mercaptomethyl)benzene, 1,2,3-tris(mercaptoethyl)benzene, 1,2,4-tris(mercaptoethyl)benzene, 1,3,5-tris(mercaptoethyl)benzene, 1,2,3-tris(mercaptomethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,2,4-tris(mercaptomethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,3,5-tris(mercaptomethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,2,3-tris(mercaptoethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,2,4-tris(mercaptoethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,3,5-tris(mercaptoethyleneoxylbenzene, 1,2,3,4-tetramercaptobenzene, 1,2,3,5-tetramercaptobenzene, 1,2,4,5-tetramercaptobenzene, 12.3,4-tetrakis(mercaptomethy)benzene, 1,2,3,5-tetrakis(mercaptomethyl)benzene, 1,2,4,5-te-1,2,3,4-tetrakis(mercaptomethyl)benzene, 1,2,3,5-tetrakis(mercaptrakis(mercaptomethyl)benzene, toethyl)benzene, 1,2,4,5-tetrakis(mercaptoethyl)benzene, 1,2,3,4-tetrakis(mercaptomethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,2,4,5-tetrakis(mercaptomethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,2,3,5-tetrakis(mercaptomethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,2,3,4-tetrakis(mercaptoethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,2,3,5-tetrakis(mercaptoethyleneoxy)benzene, 1,2,4,5-tetrakis(mercaptoethyleneoxy)benzene, 2,2'-dimercaptobiphenyl, 4,4'-dimercaptobiphenyl, 4,4'-dimercaptobibenzyl, 2,5-toluenedithiol, 3,4-toluenedithiol, 1,4-naphthalenedithiol, 1,5-naphthalenedithiol, 2,6-naphthalenedithiol, 2.7-naphthalenedithiol, 2,4-dimethylbenzene-1,3-dithiol, 4,5-dimethylbenzene-1,3-dithiol, 9,10-anthracenedimethanethiol, 1,3-di(p-methoxyphenyl)propane-2,2-dithiol, 1,3-diphenylpropane-2,2-dithiol, phenylmethane-1,1-dithiol and 2,4-di(p-mercaptophenyl)pentane; halogen-substituted aromatic polythiols, for example, chlorine-substituted and bromine-substituted compounds such as 2,5-dichlorobenzene-1,3-dithiol, 1,3-di(p-chlorophenyl)propane-2,2-dithiol, 3,4,5-tribromo-1,2-dimercaptobenzene and 2,3,4,6-tetrachloro-1,5-bis(mercaptomethyl)benzene; polythiols each containing a heterocyclic ring such as 2-methylamino-4,6-dithiol-sym-triazine, 2-ethylamine-4,6-dithiol-sym-triazine, 2-amino-4,6-dithiol-sym-triazine, 2-morpholino-4,6-dithiol-sym-triazine, 2-cyclohexylamino-4,6-dithiol-sym-triazine, 2-methoxy-4,6-dithiol-sym-triazine, 2-phenoxy-4,6-dithiol-sym-triazine, 2-thiobenzeneoxy-4,6-dithiol-sym-triazine and 2-thiobutyloxy-4,6-dithiol-symtriazine, and halogen-substituted compounds such as chlorine-substituted and bromine-substituted compounds thereof.

Exemplary polythiol compounds containing at least one sulfur atom in addition to the sulfur atom in mercapto groups include aromatic polythiols such as 1,2-bis(mercaptomethylthio)benzene, 1,3-bis(mercaptomethylthio)benzene, 1,4-bis(mercaptomethylthio)benzene, 1,2-bis(mercaptoethylthio)benzene, 1,3-bis(mer-1.2.3-tris(mercaptomethylthio)benzene, 1,4-bis(mercaptoethylthio)benzene, captoethylthio)benzene, 1,2,4-tris(mercaptomethylthio)benzene, 1,3,5-tris(mercaptomethylthio)benzene, 1,2,3-tris(mercaptoethylthio) benzene, 1,2,4-tris(mercaptoethylthio)benzene, 1,3,5-tris(mercaptoethylthio)benzene, 1,2,3,4-tetrakis(mercaptomethylthio)benzene, 1,2,3,5-tetrakis(mercaptomethylthio)benzene, 1,2,4,5-tetrakis(mercaptomethyl-1,2,3,5-tetrakis(mercaptoethylthio)benzene, 1,2,3,4-tetrakis(mercaptoethylthio)benzene, thio)benzene. 1,2,4,5-tetrakis(mercaptoethylthio)benzene and their nucleus-alkylated compounds; aliphatic polythiols such as bis(mercaptomethyl) sulfide, bis(mercaptoethyl) sulfide, bis(mercaptopropyl) sulfide, bis(mercaptomethylthio)methane bis(2-mercaptoethylthio)methane, bis(3-mercaptopropylthio)methane, 1,2-bis(mercaptomethylthio)ethane, 1,2-bis(mercaptoethylthio)ethane, 1,2-bis(3-mercaptopropylthio)ethane, 1,3-bis(mercap-1,3-bis(2-mercaptoethylthio)propane, 1,3-bis(3-mercaptopropylthio)propane, tomethylthio)gropane, 1,2,3-tris(mercaptomethylthio)propane, 1,2,3-tris(2-mercaptoethylthio)propane, 1,2,3-tris(3-mercaptopropylthio)propage, tetrakis(mercaptomethylthiomethyl)methane, tetrakis(2-mercaptoethylthiomethyl)methane, tetrakis(3-mercaptopropylthiomethyl)methane, bis(2,3-dimercaptopropyl) sulfide, 2,5-dimercapto-1,4-dithiane, bisimercaptomethyl) disulfide, bis(mercaptoethyl) disulfide, bis(mercaptopropyl) disulfide, and esters of these compounds and thioglycolic acid or mercaptopropionic acid, hydroxymethyl sulfide bis(2-mercapto acetate), hydroxymethyl sulfide bis(3-mercapto propionate), hydroxyethyl sulfide bis(2-mercapto acetate), hydroxyeths: 13" de bis(3-mercapto propionate), hydroxypropyl sulfide bis(2-mercapto acetate), hydroxypropyl sultide to imercapto propionate), hydroxymethyl disulfide bis(2-mercapto acetate), hydroxymethyl distillide the some capto propionate), hydroxyethyl disulfide bis(2-mercapto acetate), hydroxyethyl disulfide bis(3-merca, to propionate), hydroxypropyl disulfide bis(2-mercapto acetate), hydroxypropyl disulfide bis(S-mercapto acetate), 2-mercapto ethyl ether bis(2-mercapto acetate), 2-mercapto ethyl ether bist5-mer at a speate), 1,4-dithian-2,5-diolbis(2-mercapto acetate), 1,4-dithian-2,5-diolbis(3-mercapto proprofile in a record acid bis(2-mercapto ethyl ester), thiodipropionic acid bis(2-mercapto ethyl ester), 4.4-th.out: 100 bis(2-mercapto ethyl ester), dithiodiglycolic acid bis(2-mercapto ethyl ester), 3 1: bis(2-mercapto ethyl ester), 4,4-dithiodibutylic acid bis(2-mercapto ethyl ester), dithiodic t the 13-dimercapto propyl ester), thiodipropionic acid bis(2,3-dimercapto propyl ester), thicaight 3-dimercapto propyl ester) and dithiopropionic acid bis(2,3-dimercapto propyl ester); dithication is encounds such as 3,4-thiophenedithiol, bismuthiol and 2,5-dimercapto-1,3,4-thiadiazole. and het recommend was compounds such as chlorine-substituted and bromine-substituted compounds of the uncs may also be employed. These active hydrogen compounds may be used alone or above tally

The most is the functional groups of the polyisocyanate compound to the functional groups of the active type are successful about 0.5 to about 3.0, preferably from about 0.5 to about 1.5, i.e., NCO/(OH + 10)

In the plant well of the present invention, a urethane resin or an S-alkyl thiocarbamic acid ester resin is used as a raw materia. Therefore in the plastic lens a urethane bond is present between an isocyanate group and a hydroxyl group or an S-alkyl thiocarbamic acid ester bond is present between the isocyanate group and the mercapto group. However, the plastic lens of the present case may contain an allophanate bond, a urea

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more thereof.

bond, a biuret bond or the like in addition to the above bond depending on the intended end use of the lens. For example, the isocyanate group may be further reacted with the urethane bond or S-alkyl thiocarbamic acid ester bond so as to increase the crosslink density. In this case, the reaction temperature is set to 100°C or more, and the isocyanate component is used in an excess amount. Alternatively, an amine or the like may be used to utilize the urea bond or biuret bond. When the isocyanate compound is reacted with a compound other than the hydroxyl compound or mercapto compound, attention must be paid to coloring.

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Various additives may be added to the raw materials to achieve particular properties for end use and lens of the invention. Exemplary suitable additives include a chain extender, a crosslinking agent, a light stabilizer, an ultraviolet absorbent, an anti-oxidant, an oil-soluble dye and a filler.

For the purpose of adjusting the reaction rate to a desired level, a known reaction catalyst may be added which can be generally used in the manufacture of the polyurethane or S-alkyl thiocarbamic acid ester.

The plastic lens of the present invention can be prepared by cast polymerization. One or more of aliphatic polyisocyanate compounds containing sulfur atom; one or more of active hydrogen compounds and at least one internal releasing agent are mixed to form a mixture; the resulting mixture is casted into a mold, and then polymerization is carried out.

Exemplary suitable internal releasing agents useful in the present invention include fluorine containing nonionic surface active agents, silicon containing nonionic surface active agents, alkyl quaternary ammonium salts, acidic phosphates, liquid paraffins, waxes, higher fatty acids and metallic salts thereof, higher fatty esters, higher fatty alcohols, bisamides, polysiloxanes and aliphatic amine ethylene oxide adducts. They can be suitably selected in view of the combination of monomers, polymerization conditions, economy and ease of handling.

The internal releasing agents may be used alone or in a mixture of two or more thereof.

The fluorine containing nonionic surface active agents and the silicon containing nonionic surface active agents, which are used as the internal releasing agents in the present invention, are compounds each having a perfluoroalkyl group or a dimethylpolysiloxane group, a hydroxyalkyl group and a phosphoric ester group. Exemplary suitable fluorine containing nonionic surface active agents commercially available include Unidain[®]: DS-401 and DS-403 (products of Daikin Kogyo Co., Ltd.), F-Top[®]: EF122A, EF126 and EF301 (products of Shinakita Chemical Co., Ltd.). An exemplary silicon containing nonionic surface active agents is a trial product Q2-120A of Dow Chemical Co..

Exemplary suitable alkyl quaternary ammonium salts useful as the internal releasing agents in the present invention include as cationic surface active agents such as alkyl quaternary ammonium salts including halogen salts, phosphates and sulfates of alkyl quaternary ammonium. Typical exemplary chlorides thereof include trimethylacetylammonium chloride, trimethylstearylammonium chloride, dimethylethylcetylammonium chloride, triethyldodecylammonium chloride, trioctylmethylammonium chloride and diethylcyclohexyldodecylammonium chloride.

Exemplary suitable acidic phosphate compounds for use as the internal releasing agent in the present invention include isopropyl acid phosphate, diisopropyl acid phosphate, butyl acid phosphate, dibutyl acid phosphate, octyl acid phosphate, dioctyl acid phosphate, isodecyl acid phosphate, diisodecyl acid phosphate, tridecanol acid phosphate and bis(tridecanol acid) phosphate.

Exemplary suitable metallic salts of the higher fatty acids useful as the internal releasing agents in the present invention include zinc salts, calcium salts, magnesium salts, nickel salts, copper salts and other salts of stearic acid, oleic acid, octanoic acid, lauric acid, behenic acid and ricinoleic acid such as zinc stearate, zinc oleate, zinc palmitate, zinc laurate, calcium stearate, calcium oleate, calcium palmitate, calcium laurate, magnesium stearate, magnesium oleate, magnesium laurate, magnesium palmitate, nickel stearate, nickel oleate, nickel palmitate, nickel laurate, copper stearate, copper oleate, copper laurate and copper palmitate.

Exemplary suitable higher fatty esters useful as the internal releasing agent in the present invention include esters of higher fatty acids such as stearic acid, oleic acid, octanoic acid, lauric acid and ricinoleic acid and alcohols such as ethylene glycol, dihydroxypropane, dihydroxybutane, neopentyl glycol and dihydroxyhexane.

The amount of the internal releasing agent to be used, which may be used alone or in the form of a mixture two or more thereof, is from about 0.1 to about 10,000 ppm, preferably from about 1 to about 5,000 ppm based on the total weight of a monomer mixture.

When the amount of the internal releasing agent is less than 0.1 ppm, mold release characteristics are bad; when it is in excess of 10,000 ppm, the lenses are turbid, and each lens is prematurely separated from the mold during polymerization and the surface accuracy of the lenses deteriorates.

Polymerization is carried out at from about -20°C to about 200°C, preferably from about room temperature to about 150°C, more preferably from about 50°C to about 120°C, in from 0.5 to 72 hours, depending upon the types of monomers and the mold releasing agent employed.

The polymerized lenses may be subjected to an annealing treatment, if necessary.

The plastic lenses of the present invention have high surface accuracy and excellent optical properties, are lightweight and excellent in impact resistance, and are suitable for optical element materials such as lenses of glasses and cameras.

Moreover, the plastic lenses of the present invention can be subjected to physical and chemical treatments such as surface abrasion treatment, antistatic treatment, hard coat treatment, non-reflective coat treatment, coloring treatment and dimming treatment for the prevention of reflection, enhancement of hardness, improvement of abrasion resistance and chemical resistance, prevention of turbidity, supply of fashionability,

and the like.

Now, the present invention will be further described and clarified by the following examples and comparative examples which are intended to be purely exemplary of the invention. The performance tests of the resins and lenses, specifically the tests of refractive index, Abbe's number, weatherability, mold release characteristics and appearance were carried out by the following procedure:

Refractive index and Abbe's number: Measured at 20°C by the use of a Pulflich refractometer.

Weatherability: A resin specimen was set on a weatherometer equipped with a sunshine carbon arc lamp, and after 200 hours had elapsed, the resin specimen was taken out therefrom. Afterward, the specimen was compared in tint with the resin for lens which had not been subjected to the test. Evaluation was made by the ranking of "not changed", "slightly yellowed" and "yellowed" denoted by "O", " Δ " and "X", respectively.

Mold release characteristics: When a polymerized lense was released from a mold without resistance, the mold release characteristics denoted by "0", and when a part or all of the lense was not released therefrom, they denoted by "X", by mean of driving in a Tefron wedge between the lens and the mold. Appearance: It was evaluated by visual observation.

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Example 1

18.4 g (0.09 mol) of dithiodiethyl diisocyanate were mixed with 8.0 g (0.06 mol) of 1,2,6-hexanetriol. The resulting mixture was poured into a mold composed of a glass mold and a gasket, the temperature was raised slowly from room temperature to 120°C taking 28 hours, to complete the polymerization. The thus obtained lens was colorless and excellent in weatherability, had a refractive index n_D^{20} of 1.57, an Abbe's number v_D^{20} of 44 and a specific gravity of 1.32.

Examples 2 to 18 and Comparative Examples 1 to 3

Following the procedure of Example 1, lenses were prepared in composition ratios shown in Table 1. The results of performance tests are set forth in Table 1.

Example 19

18.4 g (0.09 mol) of dithioethyl diisocyanate, 8.0 g (0.06 mol) of 1,2,6-hexanetriol and 0.03 g of isopropyl acid phosphate were mixed. The resulting mixture was poured into a mold composed of a glass mold and a gasket, and was gradually heated from room temperature to 120°C taking 28 hours, to complete the polymerization. After the polymerization, a lens was released from the mold with ease. The thus obtained lens was colorless and had good surface accuracy. Moreover, it had a refractive index n_D^{20} of 1.57 and an Abbe's number v_D^{20} of 44.

Examples 20 to 47

Following the procedure of Example 19, lenses were prepared in composition ratios shown in Table 2. The results of performance tests are set forth in Table 2.

Comparative Examples 4 to 27

Following the procedure of Example 19 with the exception that the undermentioned mold treatments were carried out, lenses were prepared in the composition ratios shown in Table 3. The results of performance tests are set forth in Table 3.

(1) No treatment A glass mold was used without any release treatment.

(2) External release treatment External mold releasing agent YSR-6209[®] (product of Toshiba Silicon Co.) was applied and baked on the inner surface of a glass mold.

(3) Reuse of external release treatment The glass mold obtained by the external release treatment was once employed for the polymerization and then used again without any further treatment.

(4) Use of PP mold A polypropylene mold was prepared by injection molding and used in place of the glass mold without any surface treatment.

Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to the skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

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Table 1 (I)

Appear-	Trans-	Ξ	=	Ξ	z	=	=
Weather- ing Resist-	0	0	. 0	0	0	0	0
Abbe's Number	45	46	40	41	39	42	36
Refrac- tive Index	1.56	1.55	1.60	1.59	1.61	1.59	1.66
Polyisocyanate	(SCH2CH2CH2NCO) ₂ 0.09 mol	S(CH2CH2NCO)2 0.09 mol	(SCH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol	S(CH2CH2NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol	(SCH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol	S(CH2CH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol	S(CH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol
Active Hydrogen Compound	Trimethylol- propane 0.06 mol	" 0.06 mol	C(CH2OCCH2CH2SH)4 0 0.04 mol	" 0.04 mol	C(CH2OCCH2SH)4 0 0.04 mol	Ξ	C(CH2SCH2CH2SH) ₄ 0.04 mol
	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5	Example 6	Example 7	Example 8

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Appear- ance	Trans- parent	=	Ξ	Ξ	=	=
Weather- ing Resist- ance	Ο.	0	0	0	0	0
Abbe's Number	35	34	34	43	37	ය ප
Refrac- tive Index	1.65	1.66	1.67	1.57	1.62	1.64
Polyisocyanate	S(CH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol	(SCH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol	(SCH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol	S(CH2CH2NCO)2 0.10 mol	" 0.10 mol	(SCH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol
Active Hydrogen Compound	S(CH2CHCH2SH)2 SH 0.04 mol	=	C(CH ₂ SCH ₂ CH ₂ SH) ₄ 0.04 mol	Trimethylolpropane 0.04 mol C(CH2OCCH2CH2SH)4 0.02 mol	Ethylene glycol 0.02 mol C(CH2SCH2CH2SH)4 0.04 mol	C(CH ₂ OCCH ₂ CH ₂ SH)4 0.02 mol S(CH ₂ CHCH ₂ SH) ₂ SH 0.02 mol
	Example 9	Example 10	Example 11	Example 12	Example 13	Example 14

Table 1 (III)

Appear- ance	Trans- parent	z	Ξ	=
Weather- ing Resist- ance	0	· .	0	0
Abbe's Number	45	40	35	40
Refrac- tive Index	1.57	1.61	1.66	1.59
Polyisocyanate	(SCH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol	0.08 mol	0.08 mol	\$(CH2CH2NCO)2 0.05 mol (SCH2CH2NCO)2 0.05 mol
Active Hydrogen Compound	Trimethylolpropane 0.04 mol Diethylene glycol 0.02 mol	C(CH2OCCH2CH2SH)4 0.02 mol C(CH2OCCH2SH)4 0.02 mol	C(CH2SCH2CH2SH) ₄ 0.02 mol S(CH2CH2SH) ₂ 0.02 mol	С(СН2ОССН2СН2SH)4 0.05 mol
	Example 15	Example 16	Example 17	Example 18

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Appear- ance	=	=	Slightly yellowed
Weather- ing Resist- ance	0	0	⊲
Abbe's Number	55	27	27
Refrac- tive Index	1.50	1.66	1.61
Polyisocyanate	1,6-Hexamethylene diisocyanate 0.07 mol	n 0.05 mol	1,3-Xylylene diisocyanate 0.05 mol
Active Hydrogen Compound	1,4-Butanediol 0.07 mol	1,2,3-Trimer- captobenzene 0.033 mol	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
	Comp. Ex. 1	Comp. Ex. 2	Comp. Ex. 3

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	Abbe's Number	45	46	46	45	4 4
Refrac-	Index	1.56	1.55	1.55	1.57	. 58
\$ () ()	ance	High surface accuracy, Trans- parent	Ξ	=	=	
Release	teristics	0	0	0	0	0
Internal Releas-	ing Agent	Unidain DS-403 200 ppm	F-Top EF-126 250 ppm	Q2-120A 500 ppm	Trioctyl- methyl- ammonium chloride 500 ppm	Isopropyl acid phosphate 500 ppm
Active Hydogen	Compound	Trimethylol- propane 0.06 mol	=	Ξ	Diethylene glycol 0.09 mol	Ethylene glycol 0.09 mol
Polyiso-	cyanate	Dithio- dipropyl diiso- cyanate 0.09 mol	Thiodiethyl diiso- cyanate 0.09 mol	<u>=</u>	Dithio- diethyl diiso- cyanate 0.09 mol	=
		Exam- ple 20	Exam- ple 21	Exam- ple 22	Exam- ple 23	Exam- ple 24

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Abbe's Number	40	39	=	=	42
Refrac- tive Index	1.59	1.61	Ξ	z ·	1.59
Appear- ance	High surface accuracy Trans- parent	=	=	=	2
Release Charac- teristics	0	0	0	O ₁	0
Internal Releas- ing Agent	Unidain DS-401 (Daikin) 100 ppm	Q-2-120A (Dow) 150 ppm	Trimethyl- acetyl- ammonium chloride 500 ppm	Diiso- propyl acid · phosphate 500 ppm	Unidain DS-403 (Daikin) 100 ppm
Active Hydogen Compound	C(CH2OCCH2CH2SH)4 0 0.04 mol	C(CH2OCCH2SH)4 0 0.04 mol	=		Ξ
Polyiso- cyanate	(SCH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol	(SCH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol	i =	=	S(CH2CH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol
	Exam- ple 25	Exam- ple 26	Exam- ple 27	Exam- ple 28	Exam- ple 29

	Abbe's	42	36	4	36
	Refractive.	1.59	1.59	1.58	1.66
	Appear- ance	High surface accuracy Trans- parent		z	=
	Release Charac- teristics	0	0	0	0
Table 2 (III)	Internal Releas- ing Agent	Unidain DS-401 (Daikin) 100 ppm Q2-120A (Dow) 100 ppm	Dibutyl acid phosphate 500 ppm	Trimethyl- octyl- ammonium chloride 500 ppm	Unidain DS-401 (Daikin) 100 ppm
Tabl	Active	0.04 mol	C(CH2OCCH2CH2SH)4 0.04 mol	=	C(CH2SCH2CH2SH)4 0.04 mol
			(SCH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol	S(CH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol	=
		, , , ,	Exam- ple 31	Exam- ple 32	Exam- ple 33

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Table	

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Abbe's Number	3 6	=	=	3.4
Refrac- tive Index	1.66	= .	=	1.67
Appear- ance	High surface accuracy Trans- parent	E	=	=
Release Charac- teristics	0	0	0	0
Internal Releas- ing Agent	Q2-120A (Dow) 150 ppm	Trimethyl- acetyl- ammonium chloride 500 ppm	Difsopropyl acid phosphate 500 ppm	Unidain DS-403
Active Hydogen Compound	C(CH2SCH2CH2SH)4 0.04 mol	=		ı
Polyiso- cyanate	(SCH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol	Ξ .	=	(SCH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂
,	Exam- ple 34	Exam- ple 35	Exam- ple 36	Exam-

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	Abbe's Number	34	Ξ	35	43.
	Refrac- tive Index	1.67	1.66	1.65	1.57
	Appear- ance	High surface accuracy, Trans- parent	=	=	z
	Release Charac- teristics	0	0	0	0
7.	Internal Releas- ing Agent	Unidain DS-401 (Daikin) 100 ppm Q2-120A (Dow) 100 ppm	Dibutyl acid phosphate 500 ppm	Trimethyl- octyl- ammonium chloride 500 ppm	Unidain DS-403 200 ppm
	Active Hydogen Compound	C(CH ₂ SCH ₂ CH ₂ SH) ₄ 0.04 mol	S(CH2CHCH2SH) ₂ SH 0.04 mol	2	Trimethylol propane 0.04 mol C(CH2OCCH2CH2SH)4 0.02 mol
	Polyiso- cyanate	(SCH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol	Ξ	S(CH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol	0.10 mol
		Exam- ple 38	Exam- ple 39	Exam- ple 40	Exam- ple 41

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•	Refrac- tive Abbe's Index Number	1.62 37	. 64	.57 45
	Appear- ti	<pre>High surface accuracy, Trans- parent</pre>	=	=
	Release Charac- teristics	0		0
	Internal Releas- ing Agent	Dibutyl acid phosphate 500 ppm	Trimethyl octyl ammonium chloride 500 ppm	Q2-120A (Dow) 500 ppm
	Active Egdogen Genpound	C(CH2SCH2CH2SH)4	C(CH2OCCH2CH2SH)4 0.02 mol S(CH2CHCH2SH)2 0.02 mol	Trimethylol propane 0.04 mol Diethylene glycol 0.02 mol
			(SCH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol	Ξ
			Exam- ple 43	Exam- ple 44

Table 2 (VII)

Abbe's Number	40	35	40
Refrac- tive· Index	1.61	1.66	1.59
Appear- ance	High surface accuracy, Trans- parent	=	=
Release Charac- teristics	0	0	0
Internal Releas- ing Agent	Dilsopropyl acid phosphate 500 ppm	· =	=
Active Hydogen Compound	C(CH2OCCH2CH2SH)4 0.02 mol C(CH2OCCH2SH)4 0.02 mol	C(CH2SCH2CH2SH) ₄ 0.02 mol S(CH2CHCH2SH) ₂ SH 0.02 mol	С(СН2ОССН2СН2SH)4 0.05 mol
Polyiso- cyanate	(SCH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol	<u>=</u>	S(CH2CH2NCO)2 0.05 mol (SCH2CH2NCO)2 0.05 mol
1	Exam- ple 45	Exam- ple 46	Exam- ple 47

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Tab	

Abbe's Number	1	44	ı	44
Refrac- tive Index	ı	1.57	1	1.57
Appear- ance	ī	Uneven surface, Trans- parent	1	Bad surface accuracy, Trans- parent
Release Charac- teristics	×	0	, ×	0
Mold Treat- ment	No treat- ment	External release treat- ment	Reuse of external release treatment (mold used in Comp.	Use of PP mold
Active Hydrogen Compound	1,2,6-Hexane- triol 0.06 mol	Ξ	=	=
Polyiso- cyanate	(SCH2CH2NCO)2 0.09 mol	=	=	Ξ
	Comp. Ex. 4	Comp. Ex. 5	Comp. Ex. 6	Comp. Ex. 7

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Abbe's Number	ı	46	ŧ	4 6
Refrac- tive Index	. 1	1.55	I	1.55
Appear- ance	ſ	Uneven surface, Trans- parent	1	Bad surface accuracy, Trans- parent
Release Charac- teristics	×		×	0
Mold Treat- ment	No treat- ment	External release treat- ment	Reuse of external release treatment (mold used in Comp.	Use of PP mold
Active Hydrogen Compound	Trimethylol propane 0.06 mol	=	=	=
Polyiso- cyanate	S(CH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.09 mol	=	=	=
	Comp. Ex. 8	Comp. Ex. 9	Comp. Ex. 10	Comp. Ex. 11

Transparent

Table 3 (III)

Abbe's Number	1	39	ı .	9 6
Refractive Index	ī	1.61	ı	1.61
Appear- ance	1	Uneven surface, Trans- parent	I	Bad surface accuracy,
Release Charac- teristics	×	0	×	0
Mold Treat- ment	No treat- ment	External release treat- ment	Reuse of external release treatment (mold used in Comp.	Use of PP mold
Active Hydrogen Compound	C(CH2OCCH2SH)4 0.04 mol	=	=	E
Polyiso- cyanate	(SCH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol	=	=	=
	Comp. Ex. 12	Comp. Ex. 13	Comp. Ex. 14	Comp. Ex. 15

Abbe's Number	ı	42	1	40
Refrac- tive Index	1	1.59	- I	1.60
Appear- ance	ı	Uneven surface, Trans- parent	ı	Bad surface accuracy, Trans- parent
Release Charac- teristics	×	0	*	0
Mold Treat- ment	No treat- ment	External release treat- ment	Reuse of external release treatment (mold used in Comp.	Use of PP mold
Active Hydrogen Compound	0.04 mol	-	2	C(CH2OGCH2CH2SH)4 0.04 mol
Polyiso- cyanate	S(CH2CH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol	=	· =	(SCH2CH2NCO)2 0.08 mol
	Comp. Ex. 16	Comp. Ex. 17	Comp. Ex. 18	Comp. Ex. 19

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Abbe's Number	t .	. 36	t	36
Refrac- tive Index	i	1.66	i	1.66
Appear- ance	t	Uneven surface, Trans- parent	I	Bad surface accuracy, Trans- parent
Release Charac- teristics	×	0	×	0
Mold Treat- ment	No treat- ment	External release treat-ment	Reuse of external release treatment (mold used in Comp.	Use of PP mold
Active Hydrogen Compound	C(CH ₂ SCH ₂ CH ₂ SH) ₄ 0.04 mol	=	7	
Polyiso- cyanate	(SCH ₂ CH ₂ NCO) ₂ 0.08 mol	=		=
	Comp. Ex. 20	Comp. Ex. 21	Сомр. Ех. 22	Comp. Ex. 23

Table 3 (VI)

Abbe's Number	3.4	t	34
Refrac- tive Index	1.67	1	1.66
Appear- ance	Uneven surface, Trans- parent		Bad surface accuracy, Trans- parent
Release Charac- teristics X	0	×	0
Mold Treat- ment No treat-	ment External release treat- ment	Reuse of external release treatment (mold used in Comp.	Use of PP mold
Active Hydrogen Compound C(CH2SCH2CH2SH)4	=	=	S(CH2CHCH2SH) ₂ SH 0.04 mol
Polyiso- cyanate S(CH2CH2NCO)2	z	2	
Comp. Ex. 24	Comp. Ex. 25	Comp. Ex. 26	Comp. Ex. 27

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Claims

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- 1. A resin comprising the product of reacting one or more sulfur-containing aliphatic polyisocyanate compounds with one or more active hydrogen compounds selected from polyol compounds and polythiol compounds.
- 2. A process for producing a plastic lens comprising adding at least one internal mold releasing agent to a mixture of one or more of sulfur-containing aliphatic polyisocyanate compounds and one or more of active hydrogen compounds selected from polyol compounds and polythiol compounds followed by casting polymerization.
- 3. The resin of claim 1 or the process of claim 2 wherein the polythiol compounds are polythiol compounds having at least one sulfur atom in addition to the mercapto groups.
- 4. The resin of claim 1 or 3 or the process of claim 2 or 3 wherein the proportion of the sulfur-containing aliphatic polyisocyanate compound to the active hydrogen compound is a mole ratio of from about 0.5 to about 3.0 moles of functional isocyanate group per mole of functional (SH + OH) group.
- 5. The process of claim 2,3 or 4 wherein the internal mold releasing agent is a fluorine containing nonionic surface active agent.
- 6. The process of claim 2,3 or 4 wherein the internal mold releasing agent is a silicon containing nonionic surface active agent.
- 7. The process of claim 2,3 or 4 wherein the internal mold releasing agent is an alkyl quaternary ammonium salt.
 - 8. The process of claim 2,3 or 4 wherein the internal mold releasing agent is an acidic phosphate.
- 9. The process of any of claims 2-8 wherein the internal mold releasing agent is present in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 10,000 ppm per sum of the sulfur-containing aliphatic polyisocyanate compound and the active hydrogen compound.
- 10. The process of any of claims 2-9 wherein the casting polymerization is carried out at a temperature of from about -20°C to about 200°C.
- 11. A plastic lens comprising the resin of any of claims 1,3 and 4 and/or as produced by a process according to any of claims 2-10.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

	DOCUMENTS COM	NSIDERED TO BE RELEVA		EP 1	89 30	1
Category	Citation of document w	ith indication whom	ANT Relevant			
Х		re hazzages	to claim	CLASSIFICA APPLICATIO	TION OF TI	HE
ľ	DE-A-1 045 641 (* Column 1, line 16; claim *	(BAYER) 43 - column 3, line	1	C 08 G C 08 G	18/77	<u>_</u>
l l	EP-A-0 271 839 (* Column 2, line claims 1-3 *	MITSUI TOATSU) 49 - column 5, line 1;	1-11		3, 32	
				TECHNICAL SEARCHED (FIELDS int. Cl.4)	
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				C 08 G G 02 B		
ገነ	ne present search report has i	peen drawn up for all claims				
Pia	uce of search	Date of completion of the search			-	
THE H	AGUE	19-12-1989	ROURCE	NJE A.F.		
: particula : particula documen : technolo : non-write	EGORY OF CITED DOCUME orly relevant if taken alone orly relevant if combined with an of the same category gical background ten disclosure iate document	E : earlier patent do	le underlying the invectorment, but published ate no the application or other reasons	ention 1 on, or		_

1 Publication number:

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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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- 7 Applicant: MITSUI TOATSU CHEMICALS, INCORPORATED 2-5, 3-chome, Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku Tokyo (JP)
- Inventor: Nagata, Teruyuki 154, Shiraganemachi Omatu-shi Fukuoka-ken (JP)

Okazaki, Koju 35, Yamashitamachi Omatu-shi Fukuoka-ken (JP)

Kajimoto, Nobuyuki 4-1413-1315, Shiomidai 1-chome Isogo-ku Yokohama-shi Kanagawa-ken (JP)

Miura, Tohru 1612-1-26, Kosugayacho Sakae-ku Yokohama-shi Kanagawa-ken (JP)

Kanemura, Yoshinobu 2882, lijimacho Sakae-ku Yokohama-shi Kanagawa-ken (JP)

Sasagawa, Katsuyoshi 1510-1-411, Shinyoshidacho Kohoku-ku Yokohama-shi Kanagawa-ken (JP)

- 74 Representative: Stuart, lan Alexander et al MEWBURN ELLIS & CO. 2/3 Cursitor Street London EC4A 1BQ (GB)
- 64) Resin for plastics lens, and method for its preparation.
- The present invention relates to resin useful in preparing plastic lenses having a high refractive index comprising reacting an aliphatic polyisocyanate compounds having at least one sulfur atom with one or more of active hydrogen compounds selected from the group consisting of a polyol, a polythiol having sulfur atoms only in a mercapto groups, and a polythiol having at lest one sulfur atom other than in the mercapto groups: lenses containing the above mentioned resin: and a method for the preparation thereof characterized by adding an internal release agent to the mixture of the above-mentioned raw materials in casting lenses from the resin and lenses obtained by this method.

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